

As we begin the month of July, I have been thinking about Independence Day and the history of our strong brotherhood that has overcome so many unbelievable challenges throughout our nation's history. I hope we all take time to reflect this 4<sup>th</sup> of July as we celebrate our freedom as a country and allow that spirit to reignite our unity as we move forward through these strange and never-before-seen times. That we realize we have more in common than we disagree on and that at the root of it all we are bonded together as a free people. And I hope we focus on what we must work together for so that those who went before us didn't fight in vain for what we have today. That our actions today would make our Founding Fathers proud of all Americans. That we continue to see our faults and mistakes and work to make it better. That we celebrate our wins and never forget where we have been but use it to propel us forward into a better tomorrow. I hope in this time of physical distancing that our American Spirit only grows stronger as we celebrate the birth of our nation in 2020.

Looking back on the month of June we have seen record numbers and new beginnings. We are experiencing one of the busiest tourist seasons in our history as people are seeking vacation spots that are smaller and available. This has been great for our economy and we are thankful! Unfortunately, we have also seen record numbers in ocean rescues and have only just begun our summer season. A huge THANK YOU to our Fire Department and our local surfers for all that they do to help keep our beaches safe and helping those in need! Please educate yourself, family, and friends on rip currents and what to do if you get caught in one. If you want or need more information on rip currents, please contact our town hall or our fire department and they would be glad to give you additional information. Lastly, I will reiterate our excitement surrounding some projects that are finally underway in town. First and foremost, our new town hall has been making some progress most recently and we are still looking at a completion date of April 2021. You have most likely noticed the new stoplight in town at J. H. Batts Rd. and the new paving. There is more improvement that will happen in that area, but we are glad to see that in progress as well. The timing of the stoplight is still being worked on, but we should see that smoothed out soon and look forward to that helping solve the traffic problems in that area. I look forward to bringing more exciting updates on projects for town improvements soon. You can follow my Facebook and Instagram pages as well as my website.

I look forward to a great month with lots of positive progress for our great town and a continued successful tourist season that rebuilds our local business community. Let us fall back to the wisdom of those before us as we fight together through the challenges we have today and those we are yet to face.

"A right HEART exceeds ALL." -Benjamin Franklin

## **UPCOMING:**

Monday, July 6 Town Offices Closed in observance of Independence Day

<u>Tuesday, July 7 Council Meeting – Welcome</u> <u>Center. 4:30 PM</u>

<u>Friday, July 17 Council Work Session Welcome</u> Center 9 AM

